

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT
BART ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE
Committee Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2021

1. Roll Call of Members:

1. Alan Smith (2nd Vice-Chair)
2. Anita Ortega
3. Catherine Callahan
4. Chris Mullin
5. Clarence Fischer
6. Don Queen
7. Emily Witkin – ABSENT
8. Gerry Newell (Vice-Chair)
9. Hale Zukas
10. Herb Hastings
11. Janet Abelson
12. Janice Armigo Brown
13. Larry Bunn
14. Marjorie (Marji) McWee
15. Randall Glock (Chair)
16. Roland Wong
17. Valerie Buell
18. VACANT

BART Customer Access and Accessibility Department Staff:

Elena Van Loo
Bob Franklin

BART Director(s), BART Staff (s), and members of the public:

Robert Raburn (BART Board of Directors)
David Coggshall (Staff)
Wendy Wheeler (Staff)
Greg Lombardi (Staff)
Aileen Hernandez (Staff)
Patrick Quinn (Staff)
Sophia Hernandez (Captioner)
Mayra Perez (Captioner)
Shay Roberson (Guest)

Roger Acuna (Guest)
Helen Walsh (Guest)

2. Public Comments

Robert Raburn, BART Director representing District 4, thanked everyone for their service. He had a couple of exciting announcements about the new BART service that will begin tomorrow. He shared the remaining Giant's night games will be provided with special, limited late BART services. BART service will get you across the Bay, starting from the Embarcadero BART Station to five stations in the East Bay and two stations in the Peninsula. He said that the details are online, www.bart.gov, and this begins tomorrow night with the A's and Giants' baseball game.

His second announcement was that there will be a special 4th of July fireworks happening in San Francisco. He stated BART services will be provided immediately after the Giant's game and fireworks show, and there will be full service from Embarcadero BART Station to all other stations.

3. Approval of April 22, 2021, and May 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Herb Hastings moved approval of the **April 22, 2021**, meeting minutes with the amendments. Alan Smith seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with fourteen (14) in favor, zero (0) against, one (1) abstention

Herb Hastings moved approval of the **May 27, 2021**, meeting minutes with the amendments. Alan Smith seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with fifteen (15) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention

4. Sharps Containers in BART Stations

David Coggshall led a discussion about Sharps Containers inside the BART Stations.

He mentioned BART currently does not have Sharps Containers open to the public. He stated BART's System Service staff have Sharps Containers with them when they do their cleaning around the station, or the Sharps Containers are close by to dispose any needles. He stated any needles found in the station are collected, and any biohazards are picked up and cleaned up.

Randall Glock asked if you see a needle in the station or on the train, what should you do. David Coggshall said if you see a needle and you are in the station, there are

courtesy phones you can pick up and you will be directed to a Station Agent and let them know. He stated if you see a BART worker, get their attention, or go to the Station Agent Booth and let them know. He added, if you see a needle on the train, press the intercom button to get hold of a train operator and inform them. David Coggshall also shared there is a BART app where there is a biohazard notification that you can use to report it.

Valerie Buell mentioned that she was the one who had asked to have Sharps Containers as an agenda item. She mentioned one of the things she wanted from this agenda item is to have a discussion and she shared that she remembered she went to a BART Board of Directors meeting a few years ago and there was a presentation on having Sharps Containers in the BART Stations and that struck her interest. Valerie Buell shared that she is diabetic and has to carry insulin with her. She expressed that Sharps Containers are not only for people who might be using illegal drugs. She asked to consider having Sharps Containers to be available in the BART bathrooms as they reopen for those who may need to inject themselves privately and be able to dispose of the needles safely. Valerie Buell asked BATF members if this is something we need to make a statement to the BART Board of Directors about to let them know how important it is to have Sharps Containers.

David Coggshall stated he was opened to listening and having a discussion and added the decision to not have Sharps Containers in BART Stations was made above his level. As the Superintendent of Systems Service, it is his staff's responsibility to make sure the stations are clean.

Randall Glock asked if there will be Sharps Containers in the new restrooms as they get redesigned. David Coggshall said he unfortunately cannot answer Randall Glock's question.

Alan Smith shared he worked at a facility where they did provide Sharps Containers in the restrooms as several staff members were diabetic. He stated he is glad this topic has come up and he supports to have Sharps Containers in the BART Stations. Alan Smith also would like to write a support letter to have Sharps Containers in the BART Stations to the BART Board of Directors.

Clearance Fischer stated he thinks putting Sharps Containers in the restrooms would be safer and he seconded Alan's first motion to write a support letter to the BART Board of Directors to have Sharps Containers in BART stations.

Herb Hastings volunteered to write the letter of support to have Sharps Containers in the BART Stations with the help from Valerie Buell and Alan Smith and have it ready for the next scheduled BATF meeting.

Alan Smith motioned to write a support letter to the BART Board of Directors to have Sharps Containers in the BART Stations. Clarence Fischer seconded the motion.

- Motion passes with thirteen (13) in favor, zero (0) against, zero (0) abstention.

Roland Wong voiced concerns about the Sharps Containers getting vandalized in the BART Stations and this should be noted in the support letter. He stated he is mixed about having Sharps Containers in the stations, but also supports the other members to try to make things safer in handling with used needles. He added concerns with people ripping out the Sharps Containers and using the used needles which can be more dangerous.

5. Update on Elevator Enclosures at BART Stations

Wendy Wheeler gave a PowerPoint presentation on Update on Elevator Enclosures at BART Stations.

Break Down of Four Major Topics:

- Emergencies – Gates opening
 - In an event of an emergency, BART does have controls in place to open the gates automatically if you are in an enclosed faregate. Faregates open automatically through Fire Life Safety Alerts that comes through our Control Systems, BART Police Department, and Operational Control Center (OCC), and Station Agents also have control to open the faregates.
- Clipper cards and BART paper tickets - how it is processed at the enclosed area
 - Clipper Cards and BART paper tickets that are being used on the concourse level at any BART stations will be the same process with the enclosed faregates.
- Call box next to the elevators
 - Call boxes are available inside the elevator and next to the elevator on the outside. You can call for help by pressing the red button.
- Safety concerns with the enclosures faregates
 - Be aware of your surroundings; use safety precautions. If you do not feel safe to go into the enclosure, wait for the next elevator.

Schedule dates for completion enclosures at accessible faregates:

- Bay Fair Station – Complete date scheduled June 30, 2021
- Balboa Park Station – Complete date scheduled July 31, 2021
- Embarcadero Station – Complete date scheduled November 30, 2021
- El Cerrito Plaza Station – Complete date scheduled January 31, 2022

- Walnut Creek Station – Complete date scheduled April 30, 2022
- North Berkeley Station – Complete date scheduled May 31, 2022
- Civic Center Station – Complete date scheduled June 30, 2022
- Rockridge Station – Complete date scheduled August 31, 2022
- Orinda Station – Complete date scheduled September 30, 2022
- Powell Street Station – Complete date scheduled October 31, 2022

Wendy Wheeler went through some of the BART stations where enclosures have been put in place:

- Oakland Coliseum, concourse level
- Concord, concourse level
- Montgomery, platform level
- North Berkeley, platform level

Wendy Wheeler shared the difference between enclosed faregates and faregates that lead to the elevator (s):

- Enclosure is when there is a complete enclosure around the elevator with the faregate attached and are either built with bars, thick glass, or fencing that extends close to the ceiling to prevent people climbing over to fare evade
 - Concord, Oakland Coliseum, Bay Fair
- Fence that leads to elevator, not completely enclosed
 - Can lead to other faregates to exit or enter the BART systems
 - North Berkeley, Downtown Berkeley, 12th Street

Roland Wong thanked Wendy Wheeler for the presentation. He mentioned he has been using the Montgomery Street BART Station when he travels into San Francisco. He stated when he goes into San Francisco and if there are more than one person in a wheelchair using the same elevator, he felt the enclosure is kind of narrow.

Roland Wong wanted to share that he was recently at 12th Street BART Station and it was like a maze getting to the elevator, especially with the new gates being installed. He mentioned it was ok with the new gates, but it was an experience trying to get to the elevator.

Wendy Wheeler thanked Roland Wong for his comment and mentioned she will take his consideration to have more space with the enclosures on the concourse level to her team. She mentioned adding more space on the platform can be difficult due to space is limited.

Valerie Buell mentioned she was at the Bay Fair BART Station last week and she was excited with the work that has been done so far and wanted to give feedback. She expressed concerns people smoking in elevators.

6. Embarcadero Station Elevator Update

Aileen Hernandez and Patrick Quinn gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Embarcadero Station Elevator Update.

Overview:

Purpose: Seek input on project per Safe and Seamless Mobility Quick Strike Program

- **February:** Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) released a call for projects, with \$54.4M available
- **March:** SFCTA nominated project for \$3,144,302 for the construction phase
- **April:** MTC made recommendations for funding (received 71 nominations for a total grant request of \$108M). Project was not recommended for funding
- **May:** MTC Commission augmented program with \$34.6M in federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) highway infrastructure funds
- **June:** MTC staff recommended project for funding, \$3,144,000
- **July-September:** Programming and Allocations Committee, MTC Commission approvals

Projects Goals and Benefits:

- Goals
 - Install new elevator (concourse / platform)
 - Refurbish existing elevator (concourse / platform)
 - Rebuild end of station stairs
- Benefits
 - Increased number of elevators (redundancy)
 - Improved customer access
 - Reduced travel time (capacity)
 - Increased reliability

Tentative Project Schedules and Funding Plan:

- Schedule
 - 100% design, summer 2021
 - Advertise, spring 2022

- Begin construction, summer/fall 2022
 - Complete construction, fall 2024/spring 2025
- Funding Plan
- Estimated Cost: \$26M to \$36M
 - Secured Funds: \$14M
 - Planned Funds: Up to \$3,144,302 MTC's Quick Strike Program
 - Up to \$1,500,000 from Regional Measure 2
 - Up to \$6,250,000 from Congressional Earmark, Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill

Roland Wong asked about redundant elevators for this new project and to clarify how the new elevator will work with both BART and Muni since both agencies use the same elevator. Patrick Quinn stated at the end of this project, this elevator will have the capability to stop at both BART and Muni platforms, but under normal operations the new elevator will stop only at the BART platform and the existing elevator will stop only at the Muni platform. Patrick Quinn shared if the new elevator is out of service, patrons will need to use the existing elevator also known as the Muni Elevator and BART will have the ability to make both elevators stop at the BART and Muni platforms. He also clarified redundancy at the Embarcadero Station stating that the Embarcadero Station will have two elevators that can service both BART and Muni platforms rather than one elevator.

Roland Wong's second question was about the construction site and wanted to know what it will be like when the new Embarcadero BART Station elevator is being installed and expressed that this question may be too early in the stage. Patrick Quinn stated BART will not anticipate disrupting any BART services. He mentioned there will be protective barricades to protect the workers and the public from the construction. Patrick Quinn commented that BART will be working on the North end and stated most of the work will be in the evening during non-revenue hours.

Herb Hastings asked if there will be a sign to indicate that it will be a BART elevator only and Muni will have their own elevator sign. Patrick Quinn stated this was a good question and he will get clarification on the elevator signs.

Director Robert Raburn stated his fingers are crossed in hoping BART will get the money to have the new Embarcadero elevator.

7. Member Announcements

Gerry Newell announced in September BATF will have their Chair, Vice-Chair, and 2nd Vice-Chair elections and he is interested in the Chair position.

Marjorie (Marji) McWee reported on a successful walk audit event that happened on June 11, 2021, led by Contra Costa Authority (CCTA) along with city of Richmond and the University of California. She announced that Chris Mullin and Director Robert Raburn joined them and the walk audit was done in conjunction with the countywide bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee that is part of CCTA. Marjorie (Marji) McWee mentioned she and Chris Mullin had an opportunity to influence the thought process and understanding of accessibility at each of the locations. She thanked Director Robert Raburn for his support, and he was able to bring some BART staff to the event. She ended by sharing if there is another event like this, people are free to join in.

Director Robert Raburn thanked both Marjorie (Marji) McWee and Chris Mullin for their dedicated contributions for the bike audit and said it was a worthwhile day and that BART staff got a lot of it as well.

Alan Smith reminded members there was a presentation last fall about making BART Legacy Trains be available for museums. He let members know that he received a newsletter from The Bay Area Electric Museum on Highway 12 between Rio Vista and Fairfield, and they are in the fundraising process to establish a Bay Area Rapid Transit exhibit, and eventually you will be able to see the BART Legacy Trains.

Valerie Buell announced the next State Council and Developmental Disabilities meeting will be happening on June 30, 2021. She mentioned the primary topic will be about, “Home and Community Base Services,” now and into the future.

8. Staff Announcements

Elena Van Loo let members know she will be emailing the “Link21 Team Update.” www.link21program.org/en.

9. Chair Announcements

Alan Smith informed members that there will be a draft letter for the next month’s agenda to support Clarence Fischer’s motion from April’s BATF meeting to have station agents at Pittsburg Center BART Station. He mentioned he is looking to having draft letter as an agenda item for the next scheduled BATF meeting in July.

10. Future Agenda Topics – Members Suggest Topics

- BATF Member Nomination
- Clipper Card 2.0 Update
- Letter of Support Letter have Sharps Containers at BART Stations

- Letter of Support Letter to have Station Agent Booths at all BART Station during Revenue Service
- BATF Travel Reimbursement Refresher - Guidelines
- Walnut Creek – Modernization Update
- Sound Wall Barriers – BART Stations right next to freeways

Gerry Newell appreciates BART staff working on monthly agendas and trying to get quality people to speak. He asked if it would be beneficial not to have a meeting in August and added he has noticed more people are going on vacation.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting, **July 22, 2021.**